



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/026,336	12/20/2001	Junichi Otsuka	P6192a	8093

20178 7590 06/10/2005

EPSON RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INC
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DEPT
150 RIVER OAKS PARKWAY, SUITE 225
SAN JOSE, CA 95134

EXAMINER

HO, ANDY

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2194

DATE MAILED: 06/10/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/026,336

Applicant(s)

OTSUKA ET AL.

Examiner

Andy Ho

Art Unit

2194

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 January 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12/20/2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is in response to the amendment filed 1/12/2005.
2. Claims 1-18 have been examined and are pending in the application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Admitted Prior Arts (APA) in view of Kukura U.S Patent No. 6,633,923.

As to claim 14, APA teaches a computer-readable medium carrying an object program that is a server object (control object 12, line 12 page 2) when running an application program (when the POS application program 11 is run, lines 16-17 page 2), comprising:

an executable command (the POS application program 11 calls the print method of the printer control object in set 12, lines 10-12 page 3) for processing first character string data (text data, line 12 page 3) passed to the server object (printer control object, line 11 page 3) from a client object (POS application program, line 11 page 3; the application program or client object, line 1 page 3) thereof through an interface object (interface object 18, lines 14-15 page 3) running on an operating system (the OS 14,

Art Unit: 2194

line 16 page 3) as basic string data (text data character string, line 19 page 3) whereby the character string data includes null data in the middle portion (00 in the middle of string A0, line 26 page 3). APA does not explicitly teach the number of characters including null data in the character string data is countable.

Kukura teaches (lines 46-55 column 59) a system of transferring string data whereby the number of characters including null data in the character string data is countable (...the ART POA translates a null-terminated string into an object_id and back again by simply copying the individual char* values in the string directly into the octet sequence. Note that the NULL termination character is also a part of the octet sequence..., lines 49-52 column 59). It would have been obvious to apply the teachings of Kukura to the system of APA because this provides a convenient way for the object identifier to be recognized by the system as disclosed by Kukura (lines 46-55 column 59).

As to claim 15, APA as modified further teaches the object program is a peripheral device class control object (control object for a particular type of device, lines 1-2 page 2), or a peripheral device service object (service object for a particular type of device, lines 3-4 page 2).

As to claim 16, APA as modified further teaches the character string data is bar code data (in a bar code data, lines 18-19 page 3), and the application program is a POS application program (POS application program, line 11 page 3).

As to claim 17, it is a computer program product claim of claim 14. Therefore, it is rejected for the same reasons as claim 14 above. APA as modified further teaches

Art Unit: 2194

detecting an effective number of characters in the first character string as a basic string and converting to character string data that can be passed by the operating system (string A0 is converted to A1, line 35 page 3 to line 9 page 4). Kukura further teaches converting without using binary conversion to convert the first character string to a specific format (by simply copying the individual char* values in the string directly into the octet sequence, lines 51-52 column 59). Note the discussion of claim 14 above for the reasons of combining references.

As to claim 18, APA as modified further teaches the basic string data is string data containing string length information (contains the string length information of the BSTR type, line 31 page 5).

As to claim 1, it is a method claim of claims 14 and 17. Therefore, it is rejected for the same reasons as claims 14 and 17 above. APA as modified further teaches processing, in the second object, the first character string data as basic string data (lines 27-34 page 3).

As to claim 2, it is a method claim of claim 18. Therefore, it is rejected for the same reasons as claim 18 above.

As to claim 3, APA as modified further teaches the application program can process character string data containing null data (application program passes data contains null character, lines 9-23 page 3);

the first object is the application program (the application program or client object, line 1 page 3);

the second object is a peripheral device class control object (printer control object, line 11 page 3).

As to claims 4-5, they are method claims of claim 16. Therefore, they are rejected for the same reasons as claim 16 above.

As to claims 6-10, they are system claims of claims 1-5, respectively. Therefore, they are rejected for the same reasons as claims 1-5 above.

As to claim 11, it is a computer program product claim of claims 14 and 17. Therefore, it is rejected for the same reasons as claims 14 and 17 above.

As to claims 12-13, they are computer program product claims of claims 3 and 16, respectively. Therefore, they are rejected for the same reasons as claims 3 and 16 above.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments filed 1/12/2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argued that Kukura does not teach converting without using binary conversion to convert the first character string to a specific format (Remarks, fifth paragraph page 8 to first paragraph page 9). In response, the applicant argued new limitation that was not claimed before. However, this new limitation is still met by the cited references as disclosed in the claim rejections above. Kukura teaches converting without using binary conversion to convert the first character string to a specific format

Art Unit: 2194

(by simply copying the individual char* values in the string directly into the octet sequence, lines 51-52 column 59). The reference meets the limitation as claimed.

Applicant argued that Kukura does not teach the character string data includes null data in the middle portion (Remarks, second paragraph page 9). In response, the applicant argued new limitation that was not claimed before. However, this new limitation is still met by the cited references as disclosed in the claim rejections above. APA teaches the character string data includes null data in the middle portion (00 in the middle of string A0, line 26 page 3). The reference meets the limitation as claimed.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andy Ho whose telephone number is (571) 272-3762.

Art Unit: 2194

A voice mail service is also available for this number. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday – Friday, 8:30 am – 5:00 pm.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 571-272-2100.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner for Patents

P.O Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Or fax to:

- AFTER-FINAL faxes must be signed and sent to (703) 872 - 9306.
- OFFICAL faxes must be signed and sent to (703) 872 - 9306.
- NON OFFICAL faxes should not be signed, please send to (571) 273 – 3762

A.H
June 6, 2005


MENG-AL T. AN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100